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ARTIST

THE CROSS-TIME CAPER™ **EXCALIBUR**



CRUSADER X

VS.

**Captain
BRITAIN!**

AND THE WINNER

FACES **IRON
MAN!**



SHADOWS TRIUMPHANT

A STAN LEE PRESENTATION, STARRING EXCALIBUR.

LONDON (BUT NOT
OUR LONDON)--

--AN INTERROGATION ROOM IN THE
TOWER HEADQUARTERS OF HER
IMPERIAL BRITANNIA MAJESTY'S
WEIRD HAPPENINGS ORGANIZATION--

TALK,
PRUSSIAN!

WE HAVE YOU
DEAD TO RIGHTS,
NIGHTCRAWLER, THERE'S
NO DENYING IT. AND
ESPIONAGE IS A
CAPITAL CRIME.

LAST CHANCE
TO COOPERATE,
MUTANT, OR BY
THE GREAT HARKY--

--IT'LL GO
HARD ON
YOU!

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I CAN'T
TELL YOU WHAT
I DON'T
KNOW--

-- WHY WON'T
YOU BELIEVE
ME WHEN I
TELL YOU
WHAT I
DO?!



WRONG
ANSWER,
CHUM.



IS THIS NECESSARY, COMMANDER THOMAS?

IT'S IMPERATIVE WE
DETERMINE THE NATURE
AND EXTENT OF THE
THREAT TO THE WORLD
SUMMIT.

THE MONARCH
OF EVERY GREAT
POWER ON EARTH
IS IN LONDON, MR.
STUART...

-- WE CAN'T
AFFORD TO
TAKE THE
SLIGHTEST
RISK.



ARE HIS
STATEMENTS
SO OUT-
LANDISH?

BE
SERIOUS,
SANDY.

I AM! IN A WORLD OF
BEINGS LIKE CRUSADER-X,
WHY IS IT SO HARD TO ACCEPT
THE POSSIBILITY OF PARALLEL
DIMENSIONS--ALTERNATE
REALITIES, DAI--AND TRAVEL
BETWEEN THEM?

READ QUOTE POOLS,
MAN-- THE WORK OF
PROFESSOR KUBE-
MC DOWELL--?

IS THEORY--OH,
BLAST!



NIGHTCRAWLER IS ONE
OF THE KAISER'S DEADLIEST
AGENTS-- TRAINED BY THE
RED SKULL HIMSELF--



-- WE'VE FOUGHT
HIM BEFORE, SANDY.
WE KNOW FULL WELL
WHAT HE'S CAPABLE
OF--

--YET ALL OF A SUDDEN,
YOU'RE PREPARED TO
ACCEPT THE MOST
PREPOSTEROUS
COCK-AND-BULL
STORY--!



EXPLAIN THE
TRAIN, THEN, AND
THE ARTIFACTS WE
FOUND ABOARD, CLEAR
EVIDENCE OF CROSS-
TIME TRANSIT.



NOT TO ME.
THEY'RE PLANTS.
DISINFORMATION.

FOR HEAVEN'S
SAKE, DAI, IT'S
POWERED BY
A DRAGON!

HAVING
TROUBLE, DEAR
SISTER?



I MADE MY BEST SPEED
TO XAVIER'S SCHOOL...

...EVERY PASSING
SECOND GOATING
MY HEART...

...WITH AN
ADDITIONAL
LAYER OF
ICY DREAD.



CRUSADER!

ARCHANGEL!

WHAT'S THE
SITUATION?

GRIM... BUT I SUPPOSE
IT COULD BE
WORSE.

I'LL ESCORT
YOU IN, SECURITY'S
ON FULL ALERT.

THEIR GUNNERS
MAY BE A TRIFLE
TRIGGER-HAPPY.



YOU ASK ME, IT'S A CASE
OF BUILDING A BARN AFTER
ALL YOUR STOCK'S BEEN
RUSTLED.

BUT IT GIVES
THE HEAVY MOB
SOMETHING
TO DO.

SO...
MANY
?!

A RIGHT
ROYAL
MESS--

--AND, AS
TOP OF THE
X-MEN'S TACTICAL
CHIEF, YOU'RE
WELCOME TO IT!



YOU'RE HEAD
OF SECURITY,
CRABE.

WHAT THE DEVIL
HAPPENED HERE,
AND NOW?!

DUNNO FOR
CERTAIN.

PSYCHIC SHOCKWAVE,
POWERFUL BEYOND ANYTHING
WE'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED,
STRUCK TOTALLY WITHOUT
WARNING.



DEFENSES?

YOU TWO
STILL AT
OPPS?

PRETTY MUCH UP TO
ME AT THE MOMENT,
SO I'D BEST GET
BACK TO THEM.

DEFENSES
WERE EITHER
BYPASSED OR
OVERWHELMED

FACT O' LIFE,
CRUSADER. SO
LONG AS WE
WORK WELL
TOGETHER...

...I CAN LIVE
WITH HER
DISLIKE.



MUTANTS WITH PSYCHIC ABILITIES
WERE AFFECTED MORE THAN
THOSE WITH PHYSICAL ONES.

BUT EVERYONE
HERE-- SUPER-POWERED
OR NOT-- WAS TAGGED.





"WEIRD
THING
WAS..."

"...THEY DROPPED
LIKE PUPPETS
WITH CUT STRINGS,
AS IF THEY'D
NEVER AT ALL
BEEN REAL."

"I DUNNO, MAYBE
THEY WEREN'T."

"BECAUSE THEN, I FOUND MYSELF UP AGAINST
THEIR LORD AND MASTER, THE SHADOW KING."

AT LAST,
MY
PRECIOUS--

--A MOMENT
I'VE BEEN
EAGERLY
ANTICIPATING...

...SINCE
BEFORE EVEN
YOUR PARENTS
WERE BORN.

"I DIDN'T UNDER-
STAND WHAT HE
MEANT, THEN."

"BUT I FOUGHT
ANYWAY."

"HE LIKED
THAT."

"THE
HARPER
I RESISTED..."

"...THE MORE
DELIGHT HE
TOOK IN SMASHING
ME DOWN."

"AND THEN, I WASN'T
A KING ANYMORE."

"AND I
WASN'T ON
EARTH..."

"...BUT
ANOTHER
DIMENSION."

* THAT STORY CAN BE FOUND IN EXCALIBUR
SPECIAL EDITION #2'S 3 & 4, ON SALE THIS
SPRING AND SUMMER...TK.

"WHERE ONE BLOAT
GAVE WAY TO ANOTHER."

"MOJO."

"MASTER-
SHOWMAN,
RINGMASTER
OF THE
WILDEWAYS."

"AND I WAS HIS STAR
ATTRACTION."

BUT I BEAT
THEM BOTH!

I DID
IT REALLY
DID!

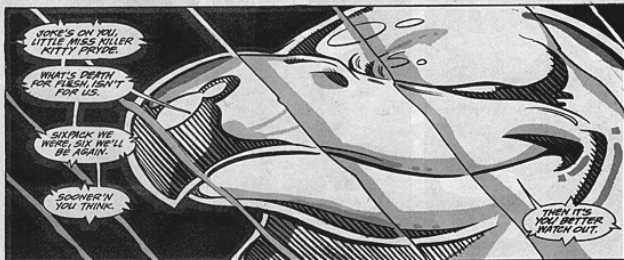
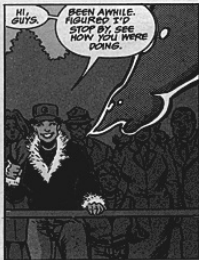
I'M STRONG
NOW, I'M
PHOENIX!

THE BLOATS
CAN'T HURT ME
ANYMORE.

I'M
NOT
SCARED.

SO HOW
COME ALL I
WANT TO
DO...

...IS
RUN
AWAY?













--MEAN?!

BAM!



EASY, REST EASY, DON'T TRY TO STAND JUST YET.

THE STRAIN OF TELEPORTING IS NO FUN AT THE BEST OF TIMES, ESPECIALLY FOR A PASSENGER.



I'M SORRY I HAD TO DO THAT, BUT I COULDN'T SEE ANY OTHER WAY.

THIS IS A REVELATION TO YOU, JAF. I SUSPECTED AS MUCH WHEN I WAS CONFINED TO JUST A BASIC CELL.

PERHAPS IN FUTURE, THAT KNOWLEDGE WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO DEAL WITH MY COUNTER-PART.

I'D SAY AUF WIEDERSEHN, LADY ALEXANDRE, BUT THE LIKELIHOOD IS, SADLY--



--ZUM TUEFEL!

--WE'LL NEVER MEET AGAIN--





HE MAY FIND
THAT A TRIFLE
EASIER...

... SAID
THAN
DONE.



I'VE FOUGHT SOME WORLD-
CLASS POWERHOUSES...

... SINCE
ASSUMING
THE MANTLE
OF CRUSADER-
X.



BUT I'D NEVER--TRULY--
THOUGHT I MET MY MATCH...

... UNTIL
TODAY.



I BELIEVE HE HAD THE
EDGE IN RAW STRENGTH.

BUT I WAS
A FRACTION
FASTER.

WHOK

THAT'S ALL IT WAS,
THOUGH, THE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN
US.

FRACTIONS.



THE
WILDEST
THING
WAS...

... WE EACH SEEMED
TO SENSE THE
OTHER'S MOVES...



... THE
INSTANT
THEY WERE
MADE.

EVEN WITHOUT THE
SIMILARITIES BE-
TWEEN OUR
UNIFORMS...

... I'D STILL
HAVE THE EERIE,
UNBELIEVABLE
FEELING...

... I WAS
FIGHTING
MYSELF.



HE SENSED
IT, TOO.

NOT THAT THE
REALIZATION
HELPED EITHER
OF US.

WE MISSED
MORE THAN
WE HIT...



... BUT WHEN YOU'RE A PAIR OF
LIVING TITANS...



EVEN THE
PERMANENT
HIT...



... CAN MAKE AN
AWFUL MESS.



AND THE
WORST
OF IT
WAS...

I DARED NOT
SLACK OFF EVEN
THE FRACTION
NECESSARY
TO TALK TO
HIM.

THAT WOULD
LEAVE ME
VULNERABLE
TO HIM.

SUPPOSE MY
INSTINCTS
WERE WRONG...



... AND HE PROVED
A DEADLY FOE?

IT WAS A RISK, WITH
ALL THAT WAS AT
STAKE, I COULDN'T
AFFORD.



HAMPTON COURT,
THE OLD TUDOR
DYNASTY RIVER-
FRONT ROYAL
PALACE...

...SITE OF
THE WORLD
SUMMIT...



MORNING,
CHAPS.

ROYALS
ALL IN
SAFELY?

PRESENT
AND
ACCOUNTED
FOR, MRS. GREY.



IN A FEW
MINUTES... I'LL STRIKE
A BLOW FOR
AMERICAN
INDEPENDENCE...

THE LIKE OF WHICH
MY FELLOW SONS OF
LIBERTY ONLY DREAM
OF!



"SHE'S DONE
IT, BLITZED
THE GUARDS!"



CAPTAIN AMERICA
IS MY DEAREST
FRIEND...

...BUT HE'S A
FOOL TO THINK
WAR CAN BE GOV-
ERNED BY RULES,
LIKE SOME GENTLE-
MAN'S GAME.



WHAT MATTERS
IS WINNING!

AND THE SUREST ROAD
TO THE VICTORY IN A
REVOLUTION...

...IS
THROUGH
TERROR!



NOT TODAY,
BUNKIE.

YOUR INTENDED
VICTIMS ARE OUT OF
HERE, STARK, AND THE
AUTHORITIES ALERTED
TO YOUR IDENTITY.

YOU HAVE ANY BRAINS,
YOU'LL CALL IT QUITS
RIGHT HERE AND NOW.



THEN AGAIN,
IF YOU HAD
ANY BRAINS...

...YOU WOULDN'T HAVE
ALLIED YOURSELF WITH
A SLUG LIKE THE
SHADOW KING.

VERY GOOD,
PRETTY GIRL.

YOU
DECEIVED THE
MASTER
MENTALIST, I'M
IMPRESSED.

BUT
DEFEATING
ME...





IN ANOTHER
TIME... ... ON
ANOTHER
EARTH...
-- SHE WAS
MY MOM.



BECAUSE OF YOU,
IRON MAN...
... ON THIS
WORLD SHE'S
DEAD.



WISH I COULD
PAY YOU BACK
IN KIND.

AKKSH!



BUT I LIKE
TO THINK...
... I'M
MADE
BETTER
THAN
YOU.



PART OF ME WAS SO SURE
THE SHADOW KING WOULD
SEE THROUGH MY
DECEPTION.

BUT I
FAKED HIM,
TOTALLY!

AND NOW
I BEAT
YOU...

--TOO!

AKLIKE

IF YOU'RE
LISTENING TO
THIS, FARGUAK,
THEN I'VE BEEN
INCAPACITATED
BY YOUR PSYCHIC
ATTACK--

--AND YOU,
"DEAR BOY,"
ARE IN A
WHOLE LOT
OF TROUBLE.

BECAUSE
MY ARMOR
HAS SHIFTED
OVER TO A
FULL AUTOMATIC
MODE, TOTALLY
COMPUTER
CONTROLLED--
INVULNERABLE
TO YOUR PSYCHIC
MANIPULATIONS

PROGRAMMED
TO DEFEND ME
AND CARRY OUT
MY MISSION--

--AND MOST
ESPECIALLY, PAY
BACK THIS SNEAK
ATTACK IN FULL
MEASURE--



--AT ANY
COST!









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TERRY KAVANAGH
EDITOR
KELLY CORVESE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear EXCALIBUR,

I feel that I have to take issue with you over something depicted on page 14 of EXCALIBUR #15. The scene there indicated that Red Cross workers have been killed by foreign mercenaries so that they could steal medical supplies and foodstuffs vitally needed by the people starving to death in refugee camps in the African nations of Uganda and Ethiopia.

I only wish that such was the case. True, a Red Cross worker was shot dead in Ethiopia for trying to drive food to starving people there. And a Red Cross relief plane was shot down in Uganda for apparently the same reasons. And recently, a U.S. senator and his entourage died in a plane accident while attempting to do something about the ongoing situation in Ethiopia.

The point I want to make is, and this is a monumentally tragic point, that it isn't people from outside of Africa that are doing this; it's the local population. True, there is a drought devastating most of Africa. But other nations have suffered droughts, notably China, without famine, because they provided for their own. The Marxist governments of the two African nations have arranged the horrible situation of their people starving to death in the middle of a desert.

That comedian Sam Kinneson did a black humor bit about how the starving Ethiopians should just get out of the desert. What he apparently did not know is that Colonel Miriam, the Marxist dictator of Ethiopia, put about a million of his countrymen onto relief planes, and dumped them four hundred miles out in the desert, with the warning that they'd be bayoneted to death if they somehow got through the deadlands back to more livable regions. He did it to insure that rebels in the area would have their food supply taken by these refugees. It is apparently these rebels who are attacking the relief workers, to entrench their long-term strategic positions.

Although Colonel Miriam could supply his people with adequate food to keep them from starving in these open-air death camps, he chooses not to. This rigorously enforced famine situation suits him. Miriam's example has gone a long way toward preventing the start of equal rights in South Africa. The South Africans are quite terrified that if they do grant equal rights to blacks, that it will result in the "Ethiopianization" of South Africa.

The relatives of the people he starved to death would have assassinated Colonel Miriam long ago, if this real life super-villain did not disappear for years on end. The U.N. does nothing to publicize the real situation, apparently out of a mislaid affinity for Marxism. The problem with that political doctrine is that Karl Marx believed that humanity would eventually evolve a "superman," who would be so noble and pure of virtue that he would take on the overconcentration of political power Marxism grants its advocates (or enforcers, rather) and do only good with it. However, in real life, there are no "supermen"; there are, unfortunately, a superabundance of "Colonel Miriams."

That "Heroes for Hope"/"Heroes Against Hunger" effort by Marvel and D.C. Comics did get some food to the starving refugees, but since then the situation has worsened. Apparently they decided not to cast Colonel

Miriam as the villain in those comics, for fear he'd interfere in the distribution of foodstuffs. Frankly, the whole situation of power politics over human survival in Africa is too complex to be depicted adequately in most graphic works. It is also, sadly, too real to be allowed to be depicted by the publishers. Things like entire planets being destroyed, other dimensional disasters, etc., are fine and dandy, but a real life problem of unending duration, like the famines being maintained in Africa, or an incurable plague like *Aids*, only are permitted the briefest, most cursory reference, rather than serve as an actual plotline. It's a kind of subtle censorship that dictates that real life problems, which do not resolve well in comics or elsewhere, are not given extensive publicity in the comic medium.

Which is a great pity. Situations like those in Africa need more publicity, not less, if we are ever to resolve them in the long term, if at all. That covers it. Thanks.

Bob Schreib, Jr.
31 Inverness Terrace
Fords, NJ 08863-1221

We thank you for this very powerful and moving letter, Bob. A comment that you make at the end of this letter about life problems not being solved in our books brings up an interesting point. Suppose we did solve problems in our books. We would in a sense be misleading the public by "sugar-coating" them by saying they can be easily fixed. Unfortunately and sadly this is not the case. A prime example of this is **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #33** in which the Sub-Mariner tried and failed to solve a problem taken from recent headlines. As for the accuracy of the usage of mercenaries in EXCALIBUR #15, it is almost common knowledge that many dictators today use foreign mercenaries to enforce their will on their people.

Fortunately we do have heroes, in a sense, to combat this kind of evil; you have but to look in the mirror, Bob, to see one of them. Having the concern and courage to write this letter to make others more aware proves that.

Dear Sword Strokes,

EXCALIBUR #16 brought back memories of the days when I first discovered "John Carter, Warrior of Mars." And the cover—I tell you if I didn't already collect EXCALIBUR, I would have gotten it just for the artwork. It's really great.

I really loved the costumes on and off everybody, even Kitty's. By the way, do Kurt's "people" come from either this world or a dimension close to it? Because other than his feet and tail he looks remarkably like Kymri's people. Well, at least he's not getting called "Doggie."

As I have your attention I would like to ask you if it is Kitty's destiny to become her world's "Saturnyne"? All your clues are pointing more and more to this. I hope so, Kitty has always been one of my favorite people.

But enough about that. I have written to earn a No-Prize. In #16, on page 25, in at least two panels, we see very clearly that Kymri's father's hands have four fingers and a thumb each. But on page 21, in panel 10, he has only two fingers and a thumb on each

hand. Here comes the answer—Anjulis stole his magic when she seduced him and infected him with the evil magic of her master. This, of course, changed his physical body to form that would be able to use the evil power.

I hoped this information has helped me earn a No-Prize.

Jacqueline Middleton
18 McCulla St.
Sherwood, Brisbane 4075
QLD Australia

Consider yourself officially No-Prized, Jacqueline.

As you probably noticed in the "Next Issue Blurp" at the end of our story, next month Alan Davis and Paul Neary return to the pages of EXCALIBUR for two more issues that wrap up the *Cross-Time* Caper.

After that, our new regular art team debuts. But all we're going to tell you right now is that you've already seen their interpretation of our merry mutant cast—and loved it!

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(signed) Denise Bove — Business Manager